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The Maritime Administration has named Lauren K. Brand to head its new South Atlantic Gateway Office in Miami, Florida. Ten Gateway Offices have been established in the Nation's largest ports to place a team of intermodal maritime experts "on the ground" that work with headquarters staff, state and local authorities and a broad range of port, shipper and carrier stakeholders to cooperate on projects. The goal is to work on reducing congestion, improving freight and passenger movement, and address environmental and community challenges in the ports, intermodal connections, and key freight and passenger corridors. The South Atlantic Gateway Office will provide support in South Carolina, Georgia, eastern Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Prior to this appointment, Lauren was the Senior Director of Business Development with the Canaveral Port Authority in Cape Canaveral, Florida, the second largest cruise port in the United States. She brings a wealth of experience in passenger cruise and freight business development, freight forwarding, stevedoring, and warehousing, as well as working with State government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to address intermodal challenges. Lauren holds a Bachelor's degree in Transportation and American Association of Port Authorities certification in Professional Port Management.

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